

**NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Joint Meeting of the School Committee and Town Boards**  
**Ashby – Pepperell – Townsend, Massachusetts**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, February 25, 2016**

**PRESENT**

Chairperson	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
Vice Chairperson	William Hackler	Member, At Large
	Anne Adams	Member, Pepperell
	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
	Brian Edmonds	Member, Pepperell
	Crystal Messamore	Member, Ashby ~ Absent
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large ~ Absent
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend ~ Absent
	Robert Templeton	Member, Townsend ~ Absent

**ALSO PRESENT**

Joan Landers	Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
Michael McCallum	Ashby Board of Selectmen
Janet Flinkstrom	Ashby Board of Selectmen
Mark Haines	Ashby Board of Selectmen
Melissa Tzanoudakis	Pepperell Board of Selectmen
Stephen Themelis	Pepperell Board of Selectmen
Mark Andrew	Pepperell Town Administrator
John Ladik	Pepperell Finance Committee
Sean McGinty	Pepperell Finance Committee
Holly Seiferth	Pepperell Finance Committee
Justin Seiferth	Pepperell Finance Committee
Cindy King	Townsend Board of Selectmen
Carolyn Smart	Townsend Board of Selectmen
James Kreidler Jr.	Townsend Interim Administrator
Donald Klein	Townsend Finance Committee
Andrea Wood	Townsend Finance Committee
Press	
Parent/Community Members	

1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.
2. The Chairperson hereby informed the Committee and audience members of the recording of this meeting.

**3. Discussion of FY'17 NMRSD Budget**

Superintendent Landers and Business Manager, Nancy Haines provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the preliminary FY17 budget totaling \$48,667,507.00, which is a 3.37% increase. This proposal represents \$1,586,244 increase over FY16.

The Chair opened up the floor for questions/comments from the school committee, town boards, or audience.

#### **4. Discussion of the Towns' Budgets**

Stephen Themelis shared the Town of Pepperell's budget line items and the other town departments' needs and requests. Mr. Themelis thanked the school committee and is asking that the school committee work with the town to bring the Pepperell school budget to 4%.

Melissa Tzanoudakis asked if we knew what the current E&D balance is; Nancy Haines advised that the E&D balance is 1.9 million dollars. Melissa asked what was returned unused to the E&D budget in the last three years. Nancy Haines advised she would research the amount and get back to her. Melissa shared Pepperell's priorities for this year's town budget. Melissa urged the school committee to look at different resources to get budget funding. She will support the schools in coming up with various saving alternatives grants, overrides, etc.

Mr. Andrews talked to the various efficiencies that the Town of Pepperell is doing to generate best revenues collections. Pepperell is collecting back taxes, water, and sewer fees. Mr. Andrews shared an attachment showing the Town of Pepperell's financial trends over the last five years.

Mark Haines questioned the Pepperell tax rate. Mark Andrews advised that the Pepperell tax rate is 15%; Mr. Haines shared that the Ashby tax rate is 21%.

James Kreidler Jr. from Townsend supports the pupil services line items, which included the schools resource officer, and mental health recommendations. Mr. Kreidler explained that Townsend has not closed fiscal 2015, flying somewhat blind in 2016, while trying to build 2017.

#### **5. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by William Hackler and seconded by Jonna Clermont. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.